

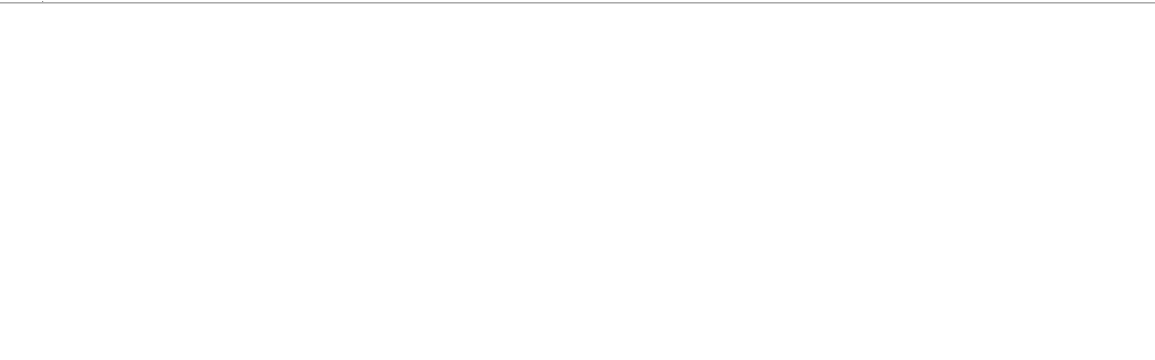
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [redacted]  
CD NO. 50X1  
DATE DISTR. 30 Nov 1953  
NO. OF PAGES 12 50X1  
NO. OF ENCLS. 3  
(LISTED BELOW)  
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia  
SUBJECT Tenth Company Border Guards/Organization/Equipment/  
Training/Personnel/Counter Intelligence /Lenin  
Works in Blovice near Pilsen  
PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]  
DATE ACQUIRED [redacted]  
DATE OF INFORMATION [redacted]

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION  
50X1



The 10th Company of the Border Guards in Novy Zdar near As; Border obstacles in the Guard Sector of this Company and the Carrying Out of Guard Duty on the Border.

1. The 10th Border Guard Company had a cover number, 6836, and is located in a two-story building of the one-time poorhouse in the obec of Novy Zdar. This company is part of the second Border Guard Battalion which in turn is part of the 5th Border Guard Brigade with its command post in Cheb.
- 50X1 2. [redacted] the location of three border guard battalions of the 5th brigade. These are: the first battalion in Hranice; the 2nd battalion in As; and the 3rd battalion in Cheb. [redacted]
- 50X1 [redacted]
- 50X1 3. [redacted] three of the Border Guard Companies, of the 2nd battalion in As. These are: the 10th Company in Novy Zdar, and its neighboring companies, the 11th in Polna, and the 9th, the so-called "Sebska", (derived from the town Selb in Bavaria.) [redacted]
- 50X1 [redacted] The supreme headquarters of all border guard units is in Prague. [redacted] its commander is Col. Hlavacka.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

| CLASSIFICATION |  |  |  | SECRET / SECURITY INFORMATION |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                |  |  |  | DISTRIBUTION                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Army EV        |  |  |  |                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

- 2 -

50X1

SECRET  
US OFFICIALS ONLY  
SECURITY INFORMATION

4. The 5th Border Guard Brigade in Cheb [redacted] and its commander is Capt. Karel Peprny.
5. Equipment: The following weapons were used by the 10th Border Guard Company. Rifles - model 98N of German manufacture, 7.92mm calibre, 1942; automatic rifles, 1951 models of the "CZ-24" Czech manufacture, 7.62mm with a magazine holding 24 rounds. (This is an improved model of the CZ-25. The improvement is achieved in the trigger and bolt assembly.) The stock of these automatic rifles is either solid wood or collapsible metal (the 7.62 calibre is the same as the Soviet automatic weapon); hand grenades - "Skoda-34". These are attack grenades of cylindrical shape with a steel safety pin. They are approximately 50mm in diameter and from 60 to 70mm in height. Rocket pistols - these are mostly single-barreled, about 25mm calibre, and of German manufacture. The rocket projectiles are of different colors and shapes: the customary flare with parachute, the marker chandelier, smoke rocket, etc. The 10th company had only one motor vehicle, a "Jawa 250" motorcycle. There was no radio transmitter. The individual posts of this unit were connected with the headquarters by field telephone. These telephones were of German origin from World War II. In addition, the 10th company had some cavalry horses which were used to check on the various obstacles along the frontier, one pair of draft horses and three police dogs which were used by the moving patrols.
6. Armament of patrols on duty: Most of the border guard patrols consisted of two men. One man is armed with a rifle of 7.92mm calibre, model 98N, with 60 rounds of ammunition, and two hand grenades of the Skoda-34 type (during the time of increased alert, four hand grenades were carried), and one Vary pistol. The rockets carried by the patrol were a minimum of two red flares, two green, 1 red "rain", and three white. The patrols were permitted to take as many white flares on duty as they wished. The second member of the patrol is armed with an automatic weapon model "24" of 7.62mm calibre with four magazines, (that is to say 96 rounds of ammunition); he also has two hand grenades. If the patrol is assigned to a fixed (not patrolling) point of duty it is equipped, in addition to everything else, with a rocket signal device which it then installs in the terrain. These devices are available in random numbers to each patrol but usually a patrol will take only one because it does not wish to carry any more equipment than necessary, and because if it rains the patrol has to clean these devices after duty.
7. Warehouse and dispensary: The warehouse for food and ammunition was located in the headquarters building and the horses were housed in stables next to it. The dispensary was attached to the headquarters battalion in As; and in cases of serious injury or illness members of the 10th company were dispatched to the military hospital in Pilsen.
8. Company strength: In recent times the 10th company was over-strength because an oversize quota of recruits was attached for training. On 28 October 1952, the company numbered 78 men including one officer and NCO's (one lieutenant, one master sergeant and one company sergeant major who was a regular soldier). The soldiers of this company were of the class of 1929, 1930, 1931, and, part, of the class of 1932. Age groups 1929 and 1930 were called to duty on 23 July 1951 in As; age groups 1931 and 1932 entered on duty 1 July 1952 also in As. Members of the class of 1929 and 1930 are scheduled for release from active duty on 23 July 1953, and those of class 1931 and 1932 on 1 July 1954, provided that military service for members of the border guards is not prolonged in the meantime, as is already the case with members of some special units; [redacted]

US OFFICIALS ONLY  
SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

- 3 -  
 US OFFICIALS ONLY  
 SECRET  
 SECURITY INFORMATION

During my term of military duty, several officers and junior officers were transferred to inland posts; however, the reasons for their transfer are not known.

9. Morale: The overall morale among the officers and men was bad. Each person performed his guard duties only because he was forced to do so by frequent controls. As soon as the majority of the border guard members discovered that they were not being controlled, they attempted to lighten their duties in any way possible. This does not mean, however, that among the members of the border guard there were no political careerists who carried out their duties still more vigorously than was required by regulation. These persons were known to all members of the unit, and decent people avoided them and hated them. I state emphatically that if all members of the border guard unit fulfilled their duty up to 50% of regulations it would be virtually impossible for any one to cross the border.
10. Political Attitudes: It is very difficult to estimate the political attitudes of the officers and men, since most border guard members do not believe each other, and no one confides his correct political attitude to any one else unless he is 100% certain of him. During meetings everyone attempts to praise the regime and does not forget to give thanks to the present "Socialist achievements", to the "great" Stalin, and to "Father" Gottwald, if he does not want to be subject to political persecutions. This "act" is played by practically everyone, be he without party affiliation or a so-called paper Communist. Communists true to the regime and political careerists can be told apart from the rest by the fact that one "spies" upon the other, denounces him and has him arrested. This practice is definitely not carried out by non-partisans and paper-Communists. The discipline in the unit is extremely firm and is maintained by blind obedience of the men to their superiors. The slightest violation is punished by imprisonment and fines.
11. Leave passes for visits to parents or to families are issued only as a special reward. According to regulations, members of the border guard do not have a direct right to receive leave passes. These matters are at the discretion of the commanding officer who determines whether or not the requestor deserves a pass. According to existing regulations the commander need not give a pass even for attendance at the funeral of immediate family members if he does not consider the applicant worthy of it. Should some member of the border guard excel in any way in carrying out his duty, or in political training, he receives a leave pass immediately, since he has been spoken for (to the commander) by the political officer of his particular unit.
12. Pay and rations: The base pay of the enlisted man is 400 crowns per month. This includes money for cigarettes, which used to be paid to soldiers separately. Guards who are on duty in the so-called "first line", that is the prohibited area, receive an additional "frontier differential" of 500 crowns a month. Other guards who work merely in the border area do not receive this differential. Officers and junior officers of the border guard receive the same pay as those of other units of the Czechoslovak army; only those on duty in "zone I" receive the 500 crown differential.
13. Members of the border guard are fed according to scale "A"; i.e., daily: 250 g meat, and 40 to 60g fat. Flour, vegetables and potatoes are available in unlimited quantities. In general the food can be said to be sufficient and good.

US OFFICIALS ONLY  
 SECRET  
 SECURITY INFORMATION

- 4 -  
SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

14. Political training: Political training took place twice weekly in periods of three hours each in addition to the daily "10 minute" periods during which the most important daily events were discussed as found in the leading Communist papers. In general, there was little or no interest in political training particularly among those members who knew they would receive no pass even if they recited all of "Marx" from memory. The main causes of dissatisfaction were: no leave passes and too much guard duty (duty was divided so that 70 percent of all duty was pulled at night and 30 percent during the day)- the night patrols are strengthened /double guard?/. The political careerists added in no mean measure to the dissatisfaction of the troops, since they forced the soldiers to attend political discussion groups in their free time.
15. The results of Communist propaganda in the 10th Company were not overwhelming because the majority of the soldiers soon saw through the Communist lies. The main tasks of the Communist Party and the Czechoslovak Youth Federation among the border guard units are: to support the commander and the political officer through its members, to propagandize among the soldiers urging them to carry out their duties as well as possible and conscientiously, increase the "on guard attitude and awareness" among its own members, etc. The Czechoslovak Federation of Youth also carries out recruitment among the soldiers; they are urged to volunteer as junior officers in the regular army so they will remain on active duty. These efforts meet with minimum results since the majority of the men impatiently wait for the time they can discard military uniforms. In carrying out these tasks only a few political careerists are exposed while the remainder stand aside.
16. Personnel: Officers of the 10th Company of the Border Guards and superior units:
- 50X1 Miroslav Tucek, Lieutenant, from 23 October 1952, commander of  
50X1 the 10th Border Guard Company  
[redacted]
- Ladislav Cizek, Lieutenant, former commander of the 10th  
50X1 [redacted]
- (fnu) Krejci, First Lieutenant, commander 2nd battalion near in  
50X1 [redacted]
- Miroslav Homolac, Lieutenant, Deputy Commander for Political  
50X1 [redacted]
- 50X1 (fnu) Eichler, Lieutenant, commander 2nd Quarterguard battalion  
[redacted]
- Frantisek Minha, Lieutenant, Deputy Commander 2nd battalion in As,  
50X1 [redacted]

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

- 5 -

50X1

SECRET

## SECURITY INFORMATION

(fmu) Nerada, Lieutenant, Counter Intelligence, 2nd Battalion [redacted]

50X1

Miroslav Svoboda, Lieutenant, former commander 10th Company, now commander Headquarters 2nd Battalion in As [redacted]

50X1

50X1

Karel Pepray, Captain, commander 5th Border Guard Brigade in Cheb [redacted]

50X1

(fmu) Muzik, Staff Captain, [Equivalent Major], commander 5th Brigade Rear, [redacted]

50X1

50X1

(fmu) Rysaby, First Lieutenant, Deputy Commander 5th Brigade for Political Staff [redacted]

50X1

50X1

(fmu) Trojacek, First Lieutenant, former commander 2nd Battalion, now Commander Border Guard Brigade Usti nad Labem [redacted]

50X1

50X1

17. Activities of the OVZ [Counter Intelligence] in Border Guard units, and in the border area in general.

Members of the Counter Intelligence can be divided into two types: one type, the so-called "sixers" [sic] are in military uniform and travel among the border guard units where they have their informers from whom they learn about the morale of the men, about all important happenings within these various units, and get to know what everyone says during political debates about the Communist regime and its policies. The other type are the so-called "seconders" [sic] who wear only civilian clothes and do not actually have anything to do with members of the border guard although they have an office in the headquarters of the border guard brigade. These "seconders" [lit.] work alone or send out their agents to Western Germany. They always report only to the commander who assigns them an escort to the border consisting of a special patrol. On return the agent is met by the "seconder" or reports to the patrol and is immediately, without any personal inspection, escorted to the headquarters of the unit. Should an agent cross the border without being expected, he always does so in daylight making a great noise, to draw the attention of the patrol to himself. The connotation "sixers" and "seconders" depends on whether the particular member of the Counter Intelligence belongs to the section called OBZ-6 or OBZ-2. The "seconders" maintain no contact, ever, with the men of the border guard units, and when they come to a unit they are immediately led to the "secret office" where they do their business with the commander of the unit. The "secret office" houses all secret documents of the unit and maps. [redacted] in this office a large plaster relief map of the entire sector patrolled by the 10th Company. This relief map had entries on it showing the locations of barbed-wire obstacles, observation posts and fixed command posts of individual patrols. [redacted] in this office, in a fireproof steel box, there is, among other things, a detailed map of the border sector of the 10th Company on which are noted important points and objectives in Germany in an area immediately opposite that guarded by the 10th Company. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

18. Execution of duty on the border: Each day at 1800 hours, the duty roster is hung up in the barracks of the company covering the following 24 hour period. The individual patrols are marked by cover numbers on this chart. The tasks of the individual patrols and the time in which they must be executed are pictured by various colors. Each member of the patrol must remember his cover number and the meaning of individual colors: (that is to say what task is represented by each color, and at what time of day each

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

- 6 -

SECRET

50X1

## SECURITY INFORMATION

task must be carried out.) The division of the working day is approximately as follows: 7 hours sleep, 1 hour preparation for duty, 8 hours duty, 2 hours "mass activity" (training), 1 hour meals, 1 hour daily rest, 1 hour personal free time, for writing letters and reading, 3 hours political and specialized training. On the orders of the day the order of work as described above will appear approximately as follows: (the two men on patrol in this example have cover numbers 22 and 23).

|        |       |       |     |      |       |      |        |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-----|------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| 22, 23 | Black | White | Red | Wine | Brown | Blue | Yellow | Green |
|--------|-------|-------|-----|------|-------|------|--------|-------|

[Note: color chart in original report appeared with numbers 22 and 26 instead, but probably should read 22 and 23 as above].

Such a chart was executed in duplicate. A copy was displayed at the entrance to the barracks and the original remained in the office of the commander. The plan of the commander also contains notations as to where the various patrols should be sent (for instance, barracks guard duty in a fixed command post, mobile patrol in a certain sector, etc.). The patrol is told its destination only immediately prior to departure for duty. The headquarters sends out patrols into two zones. The first zone is guarded by stationary patrol in the prohibited area, and the second zone is guarded by patrols on duty in the border area. In the border area, patrols were only on the public highways, crossroads, railroad stations, etc. Apart from this, the patrols in the border area do not work the terrain.

19. Types of patrols: Stationary - is assigned to a permanent command post on the ground or in an observation tower and performs its duties on highways leading to the border. Mobile - patrols at certain intervals through a predetermined sector or patrols between the individual posts of the stationary guard. This patrol is usually equipped with a police dog. Motorized patrol - This patrol only works six hours a day, three in the morning and three in the afternoon, and crosses the entire area assigned to the company. Controlling patrol - carries out control of the obstacles placed along the border throughout the company area. It also controls the mine field and the ploughed up strip along side the obstacles, and checks on whether anyone in any particular area has illegally crossed the border. Provocative patrol - normally operates in the vicinity of the border in such a fashion that it can be seen and heard from afar, which is supposed to discourage persons from attempting to cross the border illegally.
20. The patrols are usually composed of two men, but, in the period of standby, of three to four men. In addition to weapons each member of the patrol has a pair of American-made handcuffs, in case the patrol apprehends a suspicious person either in the border area or in the prohibited area, and wishes to escort that person to headquarters.
21. Challenging and apprehending of persons in the prohibited area: As soon as the patrol spots any persons in the prohibited area it is required to apprehend them and bring them to headquarters for questioning. It is up to the members of the patrol as to how this should be done. According to instructions which border guards receive, each person can be shot without warning if the danger exists that the person could escape, that is, if the patrol is at a considerable distance from the person. Otherwise, the patrol challenges the so-called "violation" to raise his hands above his head and advances towards the patrol. One member of the patrol handcuffs the person and searches him. Meanwhile the second member of the patrol provides cover with a cocked automatic pistol for a short distance. If the patrol is about to be relieved (if its time on duty is about to expire), the patrol itself will take the apprehended person to headquarters, otherwise, an escort will be called. An escort may be summoned by flare, salvo of shots or by field telephone, if available.

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

- 7 -  
SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

22. If a patrol in the second zone apprehends a person whose papers are not completely in order, it is left to the discretion of the patrol to determine whether the person was attempting to escape across the border, and must consequently be handed over for an investigation at headquarters, or whether it was a case of negligence (forgetting of personal papers or permit for entry into the border area). In the latter case, the patrol may let the person go - there are no direct orders to the effect that each apprehended person without the proper papers must be brought to headquarters. Such orders exist in the prohibited area, however. Some patrols in the border area are very ambitious and arrest persons who may have their papers in order, including permits, but who are not able to satisfy the patrol as to the reason for visiting this area. If the person's evidence checks out at headquarters, he is released. Should some small matter not quite agree, the person is arrested and handed over to the police.
23. Signalling with flares: White flares are only used for lighting the terrain at night near the obstacles (this applies only if not used in combination with other colors). A red flare means that a penetration has been detected in the direction of the state border. In practice this means that the patrol has discovered a person or persons travelling in the direction of the state border who have already crossed through the sector of the patrol or even through the obstacles. The green flare indicates a penetration into the country. This is immediately followed by a second signal, a white and a red flare, which summons reinforcements from company headquarters to occupy the suspected sector, in which the violator is supposed to be. The flare like "red rain" /red chandelier/ summons an escort from headquarters for an apprehended person.
24. Border obstacles of barbed-wire: In order to make sure that the state border remains inviolate, and to facilitate the duties of the patrols, barbed-wire entanglements were erected along the border. These entanglements penetrate up to various distances inland from the actual border (one hundred m to three hundred m, sometimes even deeper, as determined by the surveillability of the terrain). Where the entanglements cross forests, trees are cleared from five meters to twelve meters in width to form a strip. On both sides of the barbed wire there are approximately 10 meter wide ploughed strips which are harrowed and constantly maintained so that they show indications of any penetration into the entanglements. The barbed wire is mounted on wooden poles about three meters apart. The central row of poles is about two meters high and the two flanking rows are 1.5 meters high. The width of the entire entanglement is 2.5 meters. The central row of supports holds insulators which in turn support electric wire with a 2000 volt charge. These wires are mounted in three rows one above the other. At intervals of 50 meters there is a mine placed on the outside of the obstacle, mounted on a special wooden support. This mine is actually an artillery shell, 10 cm wide and 40 cm high with a special detonator. The detonator is exploded by wire connecting the individual mines if the wire is tripped by a weight heavier than 3 kg. This explodes the mine. This device has a disadvantage in that the mines are frequently exploded by fairly large animals. When the mines explode (they explode in pairs) they usually demolish the obstacle in that particular sector. Each mine has an effective radius of about 100m. In order to allow members of the border guard to cross an obstacle in pursuit of an escaping person, certain places, (stationary posts) are equipped with culverts. These are underground canals, measuring 80cm by 120cm, which lead under the obstacles. The canals are approached through special trenches which can be closed from both sides. /The obstacles are listed on plan number 2, (Enclosure (B) with legend/.

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

- 8 -

SECRET

50X1

## SECURITY INFORMATION

25. In flat country there are observation towers which maintain only day duty. For the most part, these are wooden towers from 10 to 15m high with a little roof; they command a good view of the entire section. The 10th Company area has three [see plan No 1, circled numbers 8,9, and 12 (Enclosure (A) with legend)]. This sector has an additional tower in the ventilation chimney on the roof of the brick kiln which commands an excellent view of the border. [See plan 1, circled no 7 (Enclosure(A))].

26. In the sector of this company there is also located the aircraft spotter service. This service, located in the former Hotel Goethestein, consists of seven members of the aircraft spotter service, a military unit. The commander of this group is a corporal attired in a green uniform with black epaulettes with a light blue hem. He is probably a member of the antisircraft artillery. Some members of this garrison have black epaulettes with red hems. To check on this unit a lieutenant used to arrive at regular intervals with red "prusvitsky" [sic] on his epaulettes. This patrol has to report every aircraft which crosses its sector.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

27. The prohibited area is marked by white signboards with red lettering which read, "CAUTION! PROHIBITED AREA. ENTRANCE PROHIBITED!" These signboards are so located throughout the terrain that one can be seen from the other. The border area is likewise marked with white sign boards with black lettering which read, "CAUTION BORDER AREA. ENTRANCE BY PERMIT ONLY." These sign boards are displayed mostly on public highways.

28. In April 1952, the commander of the border guard unit, Colonel Hlavacka, accompanied by Gen Smoldas, carried out an inspection of border guard units and the security of the border in the 10th Company area.

29. Lenin works, national enterprise in Blovice near Pilsen

For exact location of this enterprise see plan no 3, circled no 1 (Enclosure (C)). The enterprise is located to the east of the station in Blovice. It is composed of several three story brick buildings. The factory formerly produced hand drills of the "Lekov" type. In the spring of 1952 this production was discontinued and replaced by production of gun laying devices. The enterprise employs about 600 persons, mostly women, working in three shifts. New buildings are constantly being added to the factory and production is on the increase.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

- end -

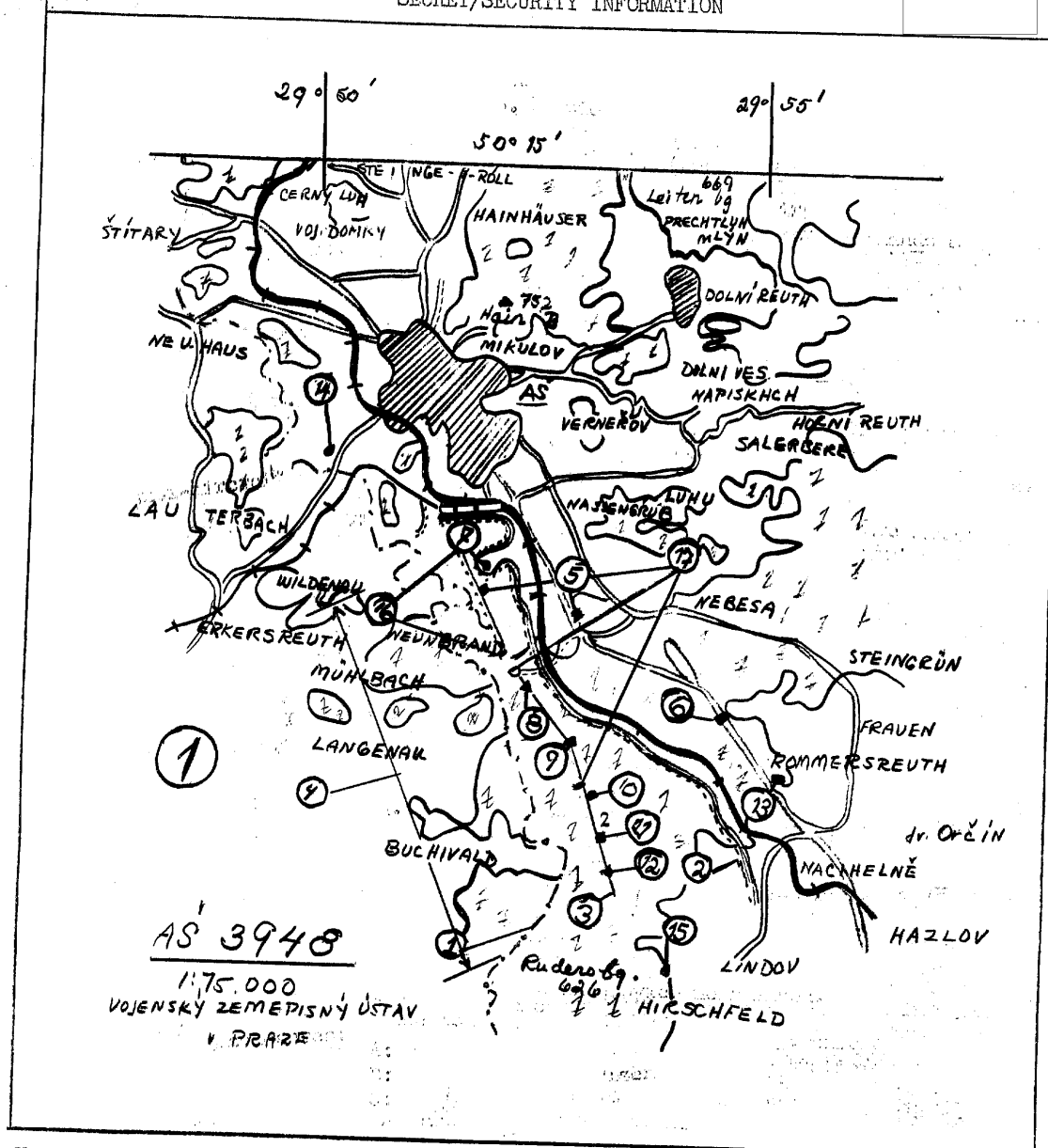
ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch-map of As with Legend  
(B): Sketch-map of Border obstacles of barbed wire with Legend  
(C): Sketch-map of Pilsen with Legend

## LIBRARY SUBJECT &amp; AREA CODES

|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 176.1  | 27M |
| 133    | 27M |
| 742.2  | 27M |
| 621.43 | 27M |

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION



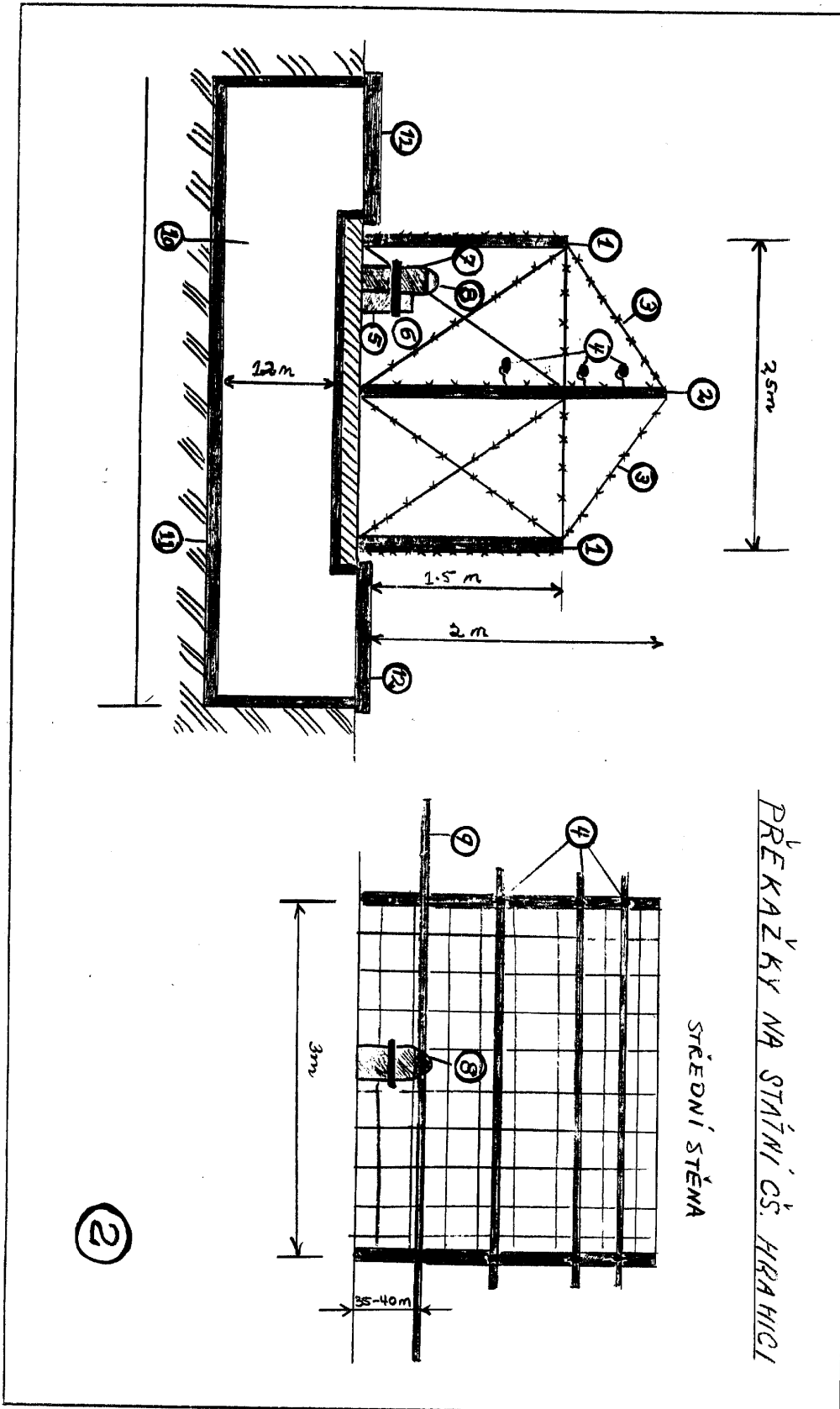


Key to plan No. 1: Border sector 10th Company Second Border Guard Battalion in As.  
Map: As 3948

1. State Frontier
2. Border of the prohibited area.
3. Ploughed belt with barbed wire entanglements.
4. Guard area of 10th company; approximately 6km long.
5. Headquarters 10th company - 2 brick buildings
6. Buildings which were being prepared as quarters for the new company. The 10th company sector is to be divided into two parts, each 3km in length.
7. Observation tower - ventilation chimney of brick kiln.
8. "No. 8 observation tower" (this tower stands on the road leading to border demarcation stone No. 8).
9. "No. 8 path" - command post of permanent stationary patrol.
10. Command post of patrol - no name.
11. Command post of patrol "U semljanek". This was formerly the site of air raid shelters of the border guard patrol.
12. Observation tower "Kanci udoli". Wooden observation tower 10 meters high.
13. Aircraft spotting command post.
14. Headquarters 9th company.
15. Headquarters 11th company.
16. Area of mine field.
17. Culverts leading under obstacles.

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SKETCH MAP OF BORDER OBSTACLES OF BARBED  
WIRE WITH LEGEND



SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

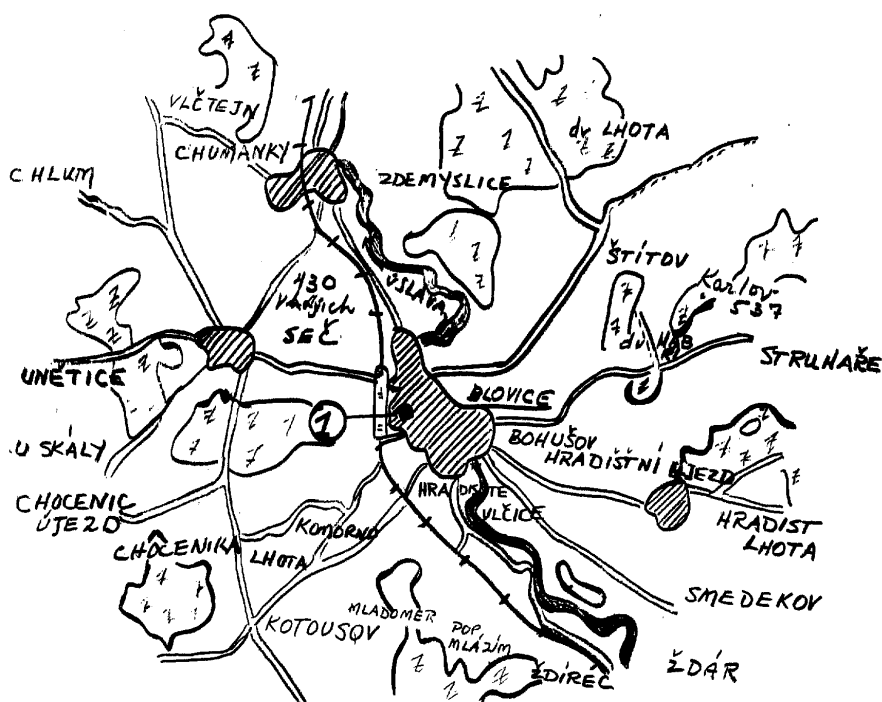
Key to plan No. 2: Border obstacles of barbed wire.

1. Flanking supports of obstacles, 10cm diameter 1.5m high.
2. Center tow supports 10 cm diameter, 2 m. high.
3. Barbed wire strung between supports.
4. Porcelain insulators with electric wiring.
5. Wooden supports, about 30cm high, holding mine.
6. Sheet metal clamp for mounting mine on support.
7. Body of mine.
8. Special detonator.
9. Trip wire leading to the detonators of mines.
10. Underpass under obstacles.
11. Shoring of the underpass by wooden planks.
12. Wooden lid over the entrance to underpass.

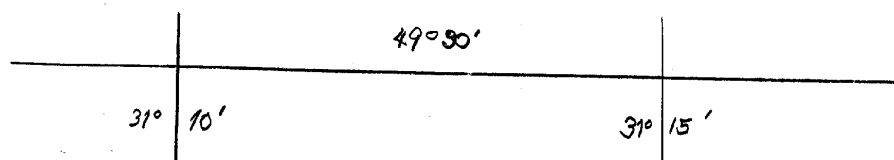
SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

# 1. ŠKODOVY ZÁVODY V. LENINA

## BLOVICE



PLZEN 4751  
 1:75,000  
 VOJENSKÝ ZEMĚPISNÝ ÚSTAV  
 V PRAZE



1. Lenin Works, National Enterprise.